

The current

Newsletter of the Spirituality Network



Autumn/Winter 2022

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NETWORK NEWS

It has been another eventful year, during which we have gradually returned to normality.

We will continue to offer a programme of courses and events, albeit with a major change in that in future these will no longer be held at Maidstone Road, Chatham, as Susanne Carlsson is moving to West Malling, Kent at the end of September. This is obviously quite a change, but we are confident it will enable her work and that of the Network to grow. Her new house is in fact right next to St Benedict's Centre, where many Diocesan and Spirituality Network events are being held already, and so Susanne's presence there will greatly contribute to the life and work of St Benedict's Centre and the Abbey.

'Attic Retreats' will continue to function under a new setting at West Malling, and Susanne will continue to welcome groups at St Benedict's as well as at her new house 'St Andrew's', at 34 Swan Street. Please contact Susanne if you would like to make a retreat in the new setting.

We look forward to seeing you there!



CLOSER COURSE – NEW DATES



The popular Closer course will run again from this Autumn, offering an opportunity to explore different ways of praying and sharing your experiences in small groups.

You will learn about establishing a rhythm of life and prayer, and how this may help in discernment and decision making.

The course will be held **on Zoom, Wednesday evenings from 6.30-8.15pm**, on the following dates:

- 12th Oct - Session 1: What is prayer?
- 26th Oct - Session 2: Images of God
- 9th Nov - Session 3: Lectio Divina
- 23rd Nov - Session 4: Centering Prayer
- 7th Dec - Session 5: Imaginative Prayer
- 11th Jan - Session 6: Creative Prayer
- 25th Jan - Session 7: Different Spiritualities
- 8th Feb - Session 8: Benedictine Spirituality and Rule of Life
- 1st March - Session 9: Ignatian Spirituality and Discernment

For further information, see the Rochester Diocesan website:

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/closer-course>

Suggested donation £10 per Session

To book please contact:

Rev Canon Susanne Carlsson

Adviser for Spirituality, Rochester Diocese

susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk / 07795 167 603

EVENTS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Wednesday 12 October, 10am-12.30pm

Venue: St Benedict's Centre, West Malling

Do you feel your prayers are more like reciting a 'shopping list' of problems or people? That your prayers are just bouncing off the ceiling and not really being heard and changing things? Perhaps you are simply bored of your own prayers? Or maybe you are new to this and just want to learn....

Then this morning is for you! Come and discover some helpful, Biblical ideas, maybe learn some new ways of connecting and expressing yourself. Whether it's praying for friends and family, your church or the wider world around you, there will be ideas to help you. Led by Margaret Wooding Jones.

Book via the Diocesan

website: <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/events-and-training/spirituality-events/>

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND THE NATURAL WORLD

Saturday 22nd October 10am-1pm

Venue: Meet outside Bredhurst village hall, Gillingham, ME7 3JZ

This event will use Christian liturgy, our five senses, imaginal-sensing, and much else besides as a vehicle to explore our own spirituality. Nature mysticism has taught for centuries from the earliest days of Christianity that the whole of creation is filled with God's spirit and is a beautiful teacher and guide.

"My book, O philosopher, is the nature of created things, and any time I want to read the words of God, the book is before me"- *St. Anthony of Egypt*.

For more information, please contact Revd Barry Linney

on barrylinney@virginmedia.com or 01634-311665

ADVENT QUIET DAY

Saturday 10 December 10am-3.30pm

Venue: St Andrew's House, West Malling

Amidst all the busyness of Christmas preparations, whether it is shopping, cooking, service planning or 101 other things, take time out in this Advent season to be still and truly consider the One whose incarnation and presence is the centre of all our activity.

With Margaret Wooding Jones, who is an LLM working with the Spirituality Network. She previously headed up the Volunteer Programme at Ashburnham Place, where she became particularly engaged in setting up a journey towards continual gathered prayer at the Ashburnham Prayer Centre.

To book please contact: susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk /
07795 167 603

MAKING THE SABBATH DAY SPECIAL – A QUIET DAY

Saturday 21 Jan 2023, 10am-3.30pm

Venue: St Benedict's Centre, West Malling

Drawing on biblical and Jewish wisdom, in Christian perspective, we will consider how we may take quality time with God and with each other on this special day, and so experience the rich blessings and renewal of the sabbath - whether we observe it on Saturday or on Sunday. With Paul Stevens

To book please contact: susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk
07795 167 603

VENUES FOR NETWORK EVENTS

St Benedict Centre, 52 Swan Street, West Malling ME19 6JX.

'St Andrew's', 34 Swan Street, ME19 6LP (next to St Benedict's)

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Help with Quiet Days

If you would like help to organise or are looking for a leader for a Quiet Day within your parish or for a group, please contact Susanne Carlsson (susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk) or Margaret Wooding Jones (margaret@woodingjones.net)

Rochester Diocese

Offers resources for individuals and parishes to grow in their relationship with God:

For individuals:

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/deepening-your-relationship-with-god/>

For your parish:

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/for-parishes/>

For events:

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/events-and-training/spirituality-events/>

St Benedict's Centre, West Malling

Spirituality events organised by and held at St Benedict's Centre can be found on their website:

<https://stbenedictscentre.org/programme/>

They also offer individual study rooms that can be booked for the day at a cost of £12, including drinks. (They are free to use when attending an event, subject to availability). For more information see <https://stbenedictscentre.org/>

Sisters of St Andrew, Lewisham

99 Belmont Hill, SE13 5DY

A small retreat centre in South-East London between Lewisham and Blackheath, with Greenwich close by. It provides a surprisingly quiet space for groups (up to 25 people) and individuals looking for a place of retreat, silence and rest. They also offer a programme of different day/evening and residential events.

<https://sisters-of-st-andrew.com/>

London Centre for Spiritual Direction

Lombard Street, London EC3V 9EA

They offer a range of spirituality courses, day events and longer training courses.

Ph: 020 7621 1391 / email info@spiritualitycentre.org

<https://www.lcsd.org.uk/events-programmes/events>

The Retreat Association

An ecumenical organisation supporting those from both inside and outside the Church. They have a directory with information about quiet days, retreats, and training.

Phone: 01494 569 056 / email: info@retreats.org.uk

<https://www.retreats.org.uk/>

CONTACT

For any enquiries about this newsletter and the Spirituality Network, please contact:

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susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk



This newsletter is produced by **STREAM**, the steering group of the Rochester Diocese spirituality network.

Members: Susanne Carlsson (Adviser for the Spiritual Network), Karin Dixon, Pat Percival, Paul Stevens, Elaine Wilkins and Margaret Wooding Jones.

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